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THE NEW AVENGERS

THE TRUST
PART SIX

PREVIOUSLY...

After the superhuman civil war, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Wolverine and Spider-Woman went underground rather than register their identities with the government. Together with Clint Barton--now wearing the costume of Ronin--Doctor Strange, Iron Fist and Echo, they operate out of Doctor Strange's Sanctum Sanctorum.

Recently, during a fight in Japan, Elektra, the leader of the Hand, was killed. Upon her death, her body reverted to its true form: that of a shape-shifting Skrull. While on a hunt for more information about the possible alien invasion, Wolverine discovers the plans of a mysterious villain called the Hood, who has gathered together a crew of renowned super-criminals including the Wrecking Crew, Chemistro, the Wizard, Madame Masque and a host of other villainous types.

After the Hood proves himself to his cohorts by taking out the super hero called Tigra and robbing a bank of millions of dollars, the New Avengers catch up to him and his gang. Faced with firepower greater than their own, the Avengers hatch a plan.

Now, the cavalry has arrived…

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"DIRK GARTHWAITE."

"I DON'T ANSWER TO THAT."

"YOU ACTUALLY *WANT* ME TO CALL YOU 'THE WRECKER?'"

"I DON'T CARE *WHAT* YOU CALL ME."

"WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT WENT ON TONIGHT, DIRK?"

"HONESTLY, YOU PROBABLY KNOW BETTER THAN *ME* AT THIS POINT."

"I KNOW YOU ROBBED A BANK AND SOME SUPER HEROES KICKED YOUR @#$ FOR DOING IT."

"THAT'S ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT IT."

"WHAT'S ANOTHER WAY?"

"ANOTHER WAY IS A BUNCH OF THESE *ILLEGAL* SUPER HEROES-- YOU KNOW, THE KIND THAT ARE JUST AS WANTED AS A GUY LIKE ME..."

"...*SNUCK UP* ON US..."

"*SNUCK UP.*"

"AND WHEN I DOVE IN TO FIGHT THE FIGHT LIKE A MAN--

"--I FOUND OUT I WAS BEING TRICKED. SET UP."

"SET UP FOR WHAT?"

"SET UP!"

"SET UP FOR WHAT?"

"A SUCKER PUNCH."
"UH-HUH."
"HEY, I BEAT THOR."
"UH-HUH."
"MAN-TO-MAN. I BEAT THOR."
"UH-HUH."
"THERE'S NO WAY LUKE CAGE GETS THE DROP ON ME. NO WAY.
"THAT-THAT DOCTOR STRANGE GUY WAS DOING SOME KIND OF-OF MAGIC.
"MAKIN' IT LOOK LIKE ALL THESE SUPER HEROES WERE THERE WHEN IT WAS ONLY--"
"UH-HUH.
"SO, I HAVE TO ASK, WHILE YOU WERE GETTING YOUR @#$ KICKED--"
"I WASN'T GETTING MY @#$ KICKED! I WAS SUCKER-PUNCHED!"
CRASH
OW.
"WE HAVE THE SATELLITE FOOTAGE.
"WHILE YOU WERE GETTING YOUR @#$ KICKED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET, WHAT WERE YOUR PARTNERS IN CRIME DOING?"

"WELL, I WOULDN'T KNOW, WOULD I?"
NO!
IT'S ON, HOOD!
WHAT?
NO! NO, WHAT ARE YOU? TWO YEARS OLD? WE GO!
GET OUT OF HERE!
BUT WE'RE SURROUNDED!
EXACTLY.
SPLIT UP AND MAKE A RUN FOR IT. SHOOT YOUR WAY OUT. I'LL FIND YOU GUYS.
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
I GOTTA HELP MY BRO.
DUDE!
NO!
SPACK
HEY, GUYS!
(AND GIRL IN CREEPY MASK.)
ARGH!
BAM BAM
BAM BAM
BAM BAM
$#$%!
TOLD YOU!

AGH!
"AGH?!"
THAT'S ALL I GET?
THIS AIN'T JUST SPIDER-MAN YOU'RE GETTING SPANKED BY--THIS IS *BLACK-COSTUMED* SPIDEY.
I HATE THIS!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
BAM BAM
BAM BAM
BAM BAM
WELL, THIS WENT BADLY.
I DON'T *HAVE* POWERS, MAN. I CAN'T BE HERE.
IT'S GOING TO BE SO MUCH MORE A COOLER STORY TO TELL...
...YOU KNOW, IN JAIL.
THWIP
JOHN, YOU RUN. YOU JUST KEEP RUNNING.
HOW DID THEY FIND US?
RUN!
OKAY.
BAM BAM
GO!
AGH!
BOOM

HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
OH, NOTHIN'!
KNEW THIS WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
OW!
THERE'S SOME KIND OF TRICK. THESE AREN'T THE REAL GUYS!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
I'M TELLING YOU--- IT'S A TRICK.
YES.
FASMANA PUTANDADDA!
FOOM
=GUNK=
THAT'S IT, I'M OUTTA HERE.
DO IT!
KRAKOOM

RUMMMMMBLE
HEY, FIST, THAT'S YOUR MOVE.
WHAT IS?
SMASHING THE FLOOR.
I DID THAT A TOTAL OF ONCE.
AAIIEE!
BOOM
CRAZY $$^@!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WORD!
AGH!
THE MONEY!
SURPRISE!
KACHUNK
AGH!
DUDE!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW THE NAME OF THE DEMON WHOSE POWERS YOU POSSESS?
@#$% YOU!
BAM BAM
BAM BAM
I ASKED YOU A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW ITS NAME?

OW!
ARGH!
I JUST WANT TO GO!
AND I WANT A PONY.
YOU WANT A PONY?
I WOULD LIKE A PONY.
WHAM
THIS IS LIKE THE KIND OF GAME SHOW YOU'D SEE IN JAPAN.
HEH.
OH MY GOD! DID I JUST MAKE YOU LAUGH?
I JUST MADE HIM LAUGH!
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.
OW.
CRASH
HEY GUYS, I ACTUALLY MADE WOLVERINE-- YIPES!
THANKS FOR THAT!
ANNOYING LI'L MUTANT PUNK!
HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW WE WERE HERE?
BAM
WE JUST CAME BY FOR SOME LATE-NIGHT CHINESE.
YOUR LUCK SUCKS.
HA!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT YOUR POWERS, BUT I *DO* KNOW THIS...
...YOU DON'T HAVE THE TRAINING OR THE KNOWLEDGE TO BE DOING WHAT YOU ARE DOING...
...AND YOUR POWER IS EVENTUALLY GOING TO KILL YOU. IT'S GOING TO EAT YOUR INSIDES.
AND YOU KNOW IT, DON'T YOU?
I *HAVE* SEEN THIS KIND OF THING BEFORE...
IT DOESN'T END WELL.
DOES HE WHISPER TO YOU?
DOES HE TELL YOU TO DO THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO--
GO TO *HELL!*
BAM BAM
BAM BAM
YOU'RE NOT HIDING FROM ME. THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO SEES ALL.
YOU'RE ONLY HIDING FROM YOUR--
AAARRGGHH!

AGH! YOU PAIN IN THE @$#!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
SO YOU CAN TURN THINGS INTO OTHER THINGS WITH YOUR FANCY GUN THING THERE?
WHY DON'T YOU TURN IT ON YOURSELF AND TURN YOU INTO NOT A LOSER?
RRR...
HHUURRGGHH!
FLASTA RUYAMAMA!
SMACK
STAAGGH!
ARGH!
YOU CANNOT LIVE IN THIS WORLD! YOU CANNOT BE HERE!
RRAARRGGHH!

WHAM

DAMN, YOU UGLY!

WHOA!

RRAARRGG!

WHAM

RRAARRGG!

RRAARRGG!

SMOOTH

RRAARRGG!

SMACK

CRACK

BAM BAM BAM

SMACK

AGH!

MAN, YOU PEOPLE NEED A HOBBY!

AND SERIOUS MEDICATIONS.

HA!

CRACK

BAM

GLGGG!

SMACK

OOF!

DAMN, GIRL!

SORRY.

FUMP

SMACK

AGH!

CRACK

HA!

OOF!

KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO GO BADLY!

BAM BAM

WHOA!

BAM BAM

ARGH!

OKAY, THAT IS JUST ABOUT ENOUGH...

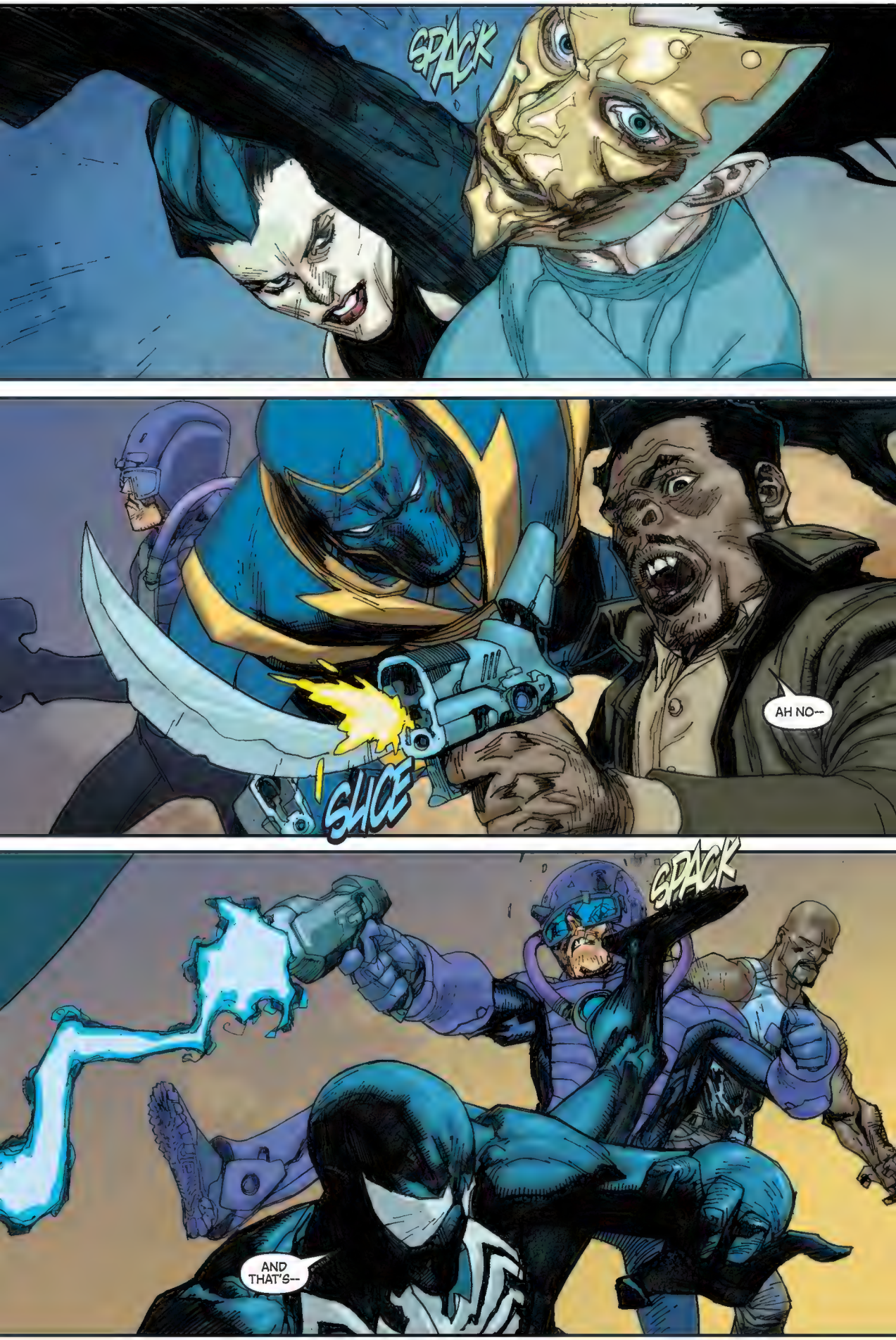
THWAP

THWAP

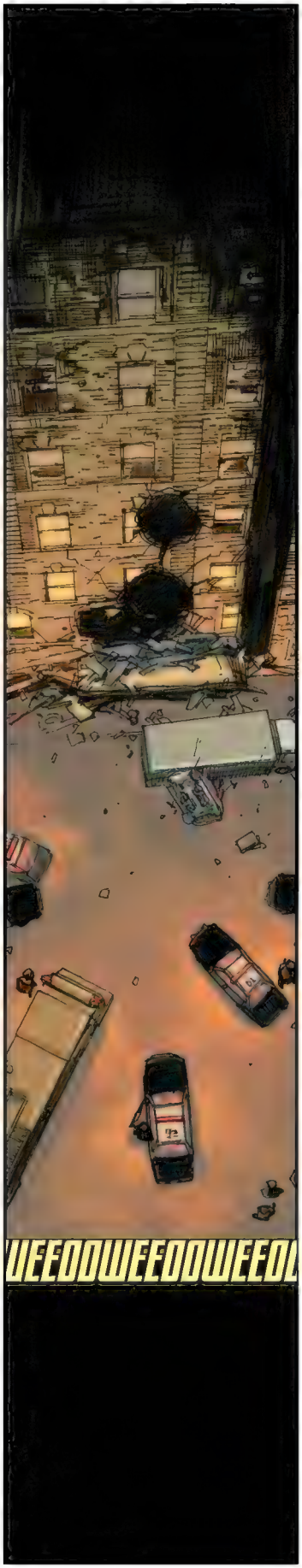
OKAY, LET'S FINISH IT.

SNIKT

GK!
CHUCK
AGH!
POOM
AGH!
FAKOOM


SPACK
SLICE
AH NO--
SPACK
AND THAT'S--

...A WRAP, PEOPLE.
WOW. I *REALLY* NEEDED THAT.
SO DID THEY.
SO--- (UGH! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THAT.)
I-I THINK I NEED A DOCTOR.
TAKE IT LIKE A MAN.
YOU *NEEDED* A FIGHT THAT WAS TOTALLY OUT OF OUR LEAGUE THAT WE WON BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH?
HEY, NO ONE CHANGED INTO A SKRULL. THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT?
TRUE.
COPS ARE COMING.
WE SHOULD BAIL.
THE POLICE ARE HERE?
ANYONE ELSE GOING TO HAVE HOOD-SLASH DEMON-RELATED NIGHTMARES?
TOLD YOU THAT GUY WAS SQUIRRELLY.
I DO BELIEVE I PEED MY TIGHTS.
YEAH, WHAT WAS THAT? WAS THAT SKRULLY?
YEAH, HEY, DOC STRANGE, YOU KNOW STRANGE THINGS...(HENCE THE NAME...) WHAT *WAS* THAT?
A VERY DANGEROUS MAN WITH DANGEROUS POWER.
OH!
OKAY, THEN.
YOU SHOULD CHANGE YOUR NAME TO DOCTOR VAGUE.
(NOW I REALLY *DO* WANT CHINESE FOOD.)
HI!
AND YOU ARE?


WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

EVERYONE STAY BACK!
NO ONE RUSHES THE SCENE UNTIL WE--

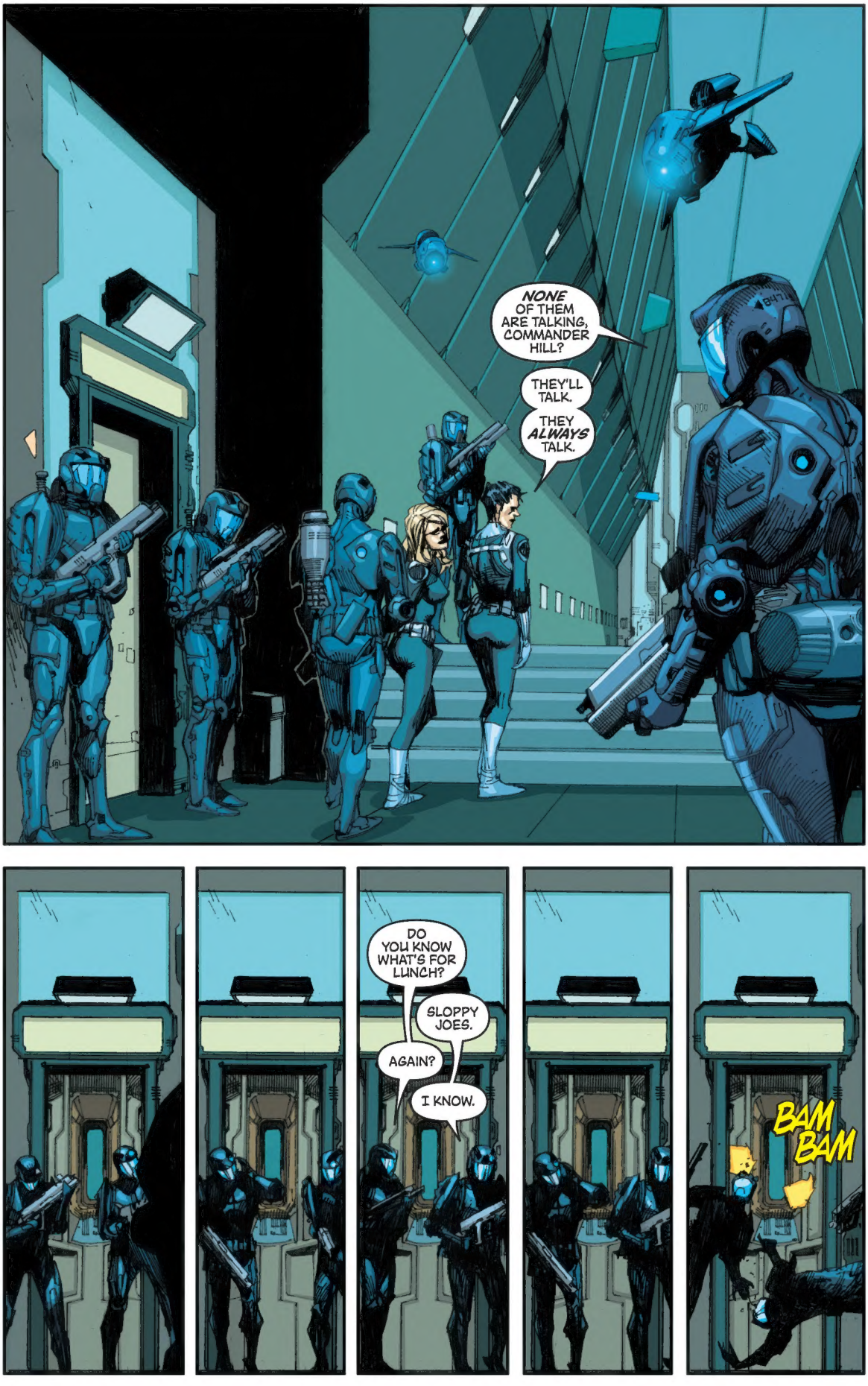
HANDS IN THE AIR!

From Your Friendly

WHAT'S IT SAY?
"FROM YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD AVENGERS."

"OKAY, SO...
"...YOUR WRECKING CREW, MADAME MASQUE, THE WIZARD, CHEMISTRO... EVERYBODY ELSE WE GOT.

WHO WAS THE MAN IN THE HOOD?
SO, UH, I'D LIKE A LAWYER OR SOMETHING.
SORRY, DIRK.
YOU'RE BEING HELD BY S.H.I.E.L.D. FOR CRIMES AGAINST MANKIND AND ILLEGAL USE OF POWERS.
NO LAWYERS.
THAT'S NOT FAIR.
YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU USED YOUR POWERS TO KILL, ROB AND TERRORIZE.
WHO IS THE MAN IN THE HOOD? DID HE BRING YOU ALL TOGETHER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, LADY.
WE HAVE SATELLITE PICS OF YOUR STUNNING DISPLAY.
WE GOT YOU AND YOUR CRONIES DEAD TO RIGHTS ON THE ROBBERY. ALL OF IT.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE HERE FOR A VERRRRY LONG TIME.
YOU WANT MAGAZINES? CANDY BARS? YOU EVER WANT TO FEEL LIKE A PERSON AGAIN? YOU COOPERATE.
WHO IS THE MAN IN THE HOOD?
I'M NOT MUCH OF A READER.
YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF ANYTHING, QUITE FRANKLY.


NONE OF THEM ARE TALKING, COMMANDER HILL?
THEY'LL TALK.
THEY ALWAYS TALK.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?
SLOPPY JOES.
AGAIN?
I KNOW.
BAM BAM

DUDE.
COME ON, LET'S GO.
BAM BAM
WELL, NOW WE'RE TALKIN'.
I TOLD YOU. THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
MY GUYS DON'T SIT IN JAIL.
NOW I'M GLAD I DIDN'T DROP THE DIME ON YA.
IF YOU DID, THIS CONVERSATION WOULD BE GOING A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENTLY.
WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE GROUP?
EVERYONE SLEEPS IN THEIR OWN BED TONIGHT.
OKAY THEN.

I TOLD YOU-- NEW RULES.
IT'S OVER WHEN *WE* SAY.
WE TOOK A FINANCIAL HIT TONIGHT.
I SAY WE TAKE IT RIGHT BACK TO THESE DAMN *"AVENGERS"* AND SHOW THEM HOW WE FEEL ABOUT IT!
BENDIS
YU
MCCAIG
TO BE CONCLUDED IN NEW AVENGERS ANNUAL #2!